

'National' fleets of the Dominions

The case of the Dominion navies is settled in a few paragraphs. "The two Dominion navies which were actually called into existence were distinguished from each other and the British navy by the words 'Canadian' and 'Australian'. But the title of 'His Majesty' applied in common to all three, and the white ensign hoisted at the stern of each ship proclaimed the fact that Canadians and Australians were committed to risking their fleets in any war declared in the name of His Britannic Majesty. The idea that the King could declare war on the advice of his British ministers, and simultaneously declare peace on the advice of Australian or Canadian ministers, was confined to men whose legal notions had obscured their common sense and blinded them to political facts. . . . The King would have to choose between rejecting the advice either of his British or Dominion ministers, and *that in such an event he would be guided by British ministers is not in question.*"—*And the same is applicable to everything done or said with reference to issues of peace and war.* Such acts must be taken by the King on the advice of his British ministers. Dominion ministers would, of course, be free to advise, but their advice, if contrary, would not prevail. The Dominions, so long as they remained British Dominions, and their people, until they renounced their status as British citizens, would be involved in war or restrained from war *on the advice of ministers responsible solely to the people of the British Isles.*" (pp. 89-90).

At last! Here is a true Englishman, honest, sincere and candid. What a rest from the deluge of lies and contradictions poured on us, for at least seven or eight years, by our politicians!

In short, the Conference is a sham; in substituting for the old British right of representation the so-called principle of "consultation," subordinated to the absolute supremacy of the British cabinet, it simply leads to "the negation of responsible government" (p. 122). Any system offering to the Dominions no other advantage than the opportunity of exercising a vague and indirect 'influence' would have the same result. As WASHINGTON truly said, "influence is not government" (p. 134).

"Once more the older and younger communities of the Commonwealth are engaged in a mortal combat with despotism, to vindicate the principle of self-government, not merely for themselves